

HTML

HTML stands for Hyper Text Mark-up Language. Mark-up Language is simply a collection of instructions that tell a browser how to display a web page. Without these instructions a browser will display a web page in its default setting and place everything from left to right with no line spacing, no paragraphs, no italics, no underlining and no alignment. So you need to use HTML Tags to control the layout of a page.

But the browser needs to understand which words are instructions and which are page content, and so you have to place all instructions within less than < and greater than > symbols. These are known as HTML tags.

For instance, to instruct a browser that the page is a HTML document, you begin the page with **<HTML>**.

Most web pages are created using HTML in a NotePad and this is known as the **Source Code**.

You can view the source code of any web page by right-clicking on any blank space on the page and selecting “view source” from the drop down menu that appears.

Alternatively you can also view a web page’s source code by clicking on “View” in the top menu, and then selecting “view source”.

And if you want to see the source code for a specific portion of text on a web page, right click on the text and then select “view source”. This will take you straight to the source code for that particular portion of text.

When source code is displayed, it isn’t usually **wrapped** which means you’ll have to scroll from left to right to read it. To eliminate this problem, select “edit” from the NotePad menu and then “word wrap”. This will force the end of each line of code to “wrap” to the beginning of the next, and this will keep the source code text within the viewable window.

The source code will show ALL the HTML that was used to make up the page.

You should make it a regular habit to view the source code of any interesting web sites you come across to see how they were created.

If you want to print the source code, go into the “File” menu on the NotePad and select “print”. If the source code was created using a different text editor, the print command may be located elsewhere.

Spend a few minutes now looking at some different web sites and viewing their source code.

Now Make Your Own Source Code

Open Windows NotePad (or equivalent). Select “Edit” from the top menu and “Select Font”. Choose a font that is easy to read. Now type in the following:

```
<HTML>
```

```
<HEAD>
```

```
<TITLE>My First Ever Web Page</TITLE>
```

```
</HEAD>
```

```
<BODY>
```

```
My First Web Page
```

```
</BODY>
```

```
</HTML>
```

Copy these instructions very carefully and note where the forward slashes are. These are used to tell the browser that a particular instruction has ended. For instance, `<BODY>My First Web Page</BODY>`. This tells the browser to expect the body content of the web page, and it also tells the browser where it ends.

Now go into the file menu at the top of the NotePad and select “Save As”.

Save it to Your Samples Folder and call it `mywebpage.html`. Make sure the “Save As Type” is “Text Documents”. All web pages are saved with a “.html” extension or “.htm”. And although it’s quite OK to use .html or .htm, it’s best to consistently use one or the other. Because using both within the same web site can become confusing.

And also always save your .html or .htm pages as “Text Documents” is the “Save As Type” box.

Now open your Samples folder and you’ll see that your source code has been saved as a web page.

Double click the page to open it.

The source code was made up from two different sections – the HEAD section and the BODY section.

On the web page you'll see that the text "My First Ever Web Page" which you placed within the TITLE tags in the HEAD section, is displayed in the blue title bar of Internet Explorer or in the Tab if you are using tabbed browsing.

The text you placed within the BODY tags is now displayed as the page content.

You can also use Comment Tags throughout your source code if you want to.

Comment tags do not affect the web page in any way and can only be seen by you or anyone else viewing the source code.

You can use comment tags to set yourself reminders or to leave instructions so that the browsers know that the text within the comment tag is not an instruction it has to follow. A comment always begins with an exclamation mark and the text starts and finishes with two dashes.

For instance –

```
<HEAD>  
<!--This is a very simple example of a web page-->
```

```
<TITLE>Web Page</TITLE>
```

```
</HEAD>
```

```
<BODY>
```

```
<!--this is the beginning of the web page content-->
```

```
First Web Page
```

```
</BODY>
```

Comments can be placed anywhere in a web page so feel free to use them as often as you like. They are useful for setting yourself reminders for when you later come to alter the source code. They are often used by professional web designers because they can work on hundreds of web sites every year and so need to set reminders about important things, especially in case someone else works on the page.